

Newark Mayor Gibson



## The KENNETH A. GIBSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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# \$50 REWARD- CLEAN CITY

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson has launched a major clean up campaign - The first step taken was to get an ordinance passed instituting a \$50 anti-dumping reward. Soon signs will be erected on various locations informing the public and asking every citizen to help stop dumping.

A \$50 reward will be given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone unlawfully dumping in the city. The direct line is ready - 643-7171.

Elton Hill, Asst. Business Administrator has developed a comprehensive clean city program. The program is designed to keep the city clean long after the clean-up-drive is over. In addition to the \$50 reward there will be a fencing of vacant lots, and a clean up of debris throughout the city.

The project will have a special Task Force of high level city administrators to examine all feedback, process information, and formulate alternatives as the situation may require.

The two wards with the highest concentration of debris, specifically the South and Central Wards, will be the first target. After the initial clean up, a roving maintenance crew will remain in each of these wards while the main force goes on to the rest of the city. Citizen involvement will be the key not only to the success of the clean-up, but to the real success of keeping the city clean. The \$50 reward is part of this phase.

There will be a special effort to involve block clubs and various civic groups.



## Youth Services Agency Satellite Project

### Pre-Adolescent Services Program

The Pre-Adolescent Services grew out of the realization, by concerned parents, that there existed a lack of remedial and accessible recreational programs for their children. These children, who have been labeled "problem youth," exhibit a need for a very special type of service, a type of

service which the traditional method of education is unable to render.

In response to the needs of these children, the Youth Services Agency has developed a unique approach to the problem.

The plan is to establish a daily after-school program for these pre-adolescents (ages 8-13), involving

participation in recreational, cultural and remedial activities led by youth (16-17 yrs.). The unique aspect of this plan is that the above mentioned adolescent group leaders had once been labeled "problem youth" or "delinquent" and now have either fully resolved their problems or show definite signs of doing so.

It is believed that intensive exposure to these "positive adolescents" through creative group activity will achieve positive behavioral changes in the pre-adolescent group.

### MONTHLY REPORT

1. Mr. Harvard met with seven (7) block association presidents and vice-presidents. He stressed the fact that we are here to provide services to the community at the grass root level upwards. Several requests were submitted to the Assistant Administration office, City of Newark.

2. Mr. Harvard was also contacted by the Newark Police Dept. whom referred a Detective Howard to work with us in the South Ward pertaining to Police Surveillance work.

3. Twenty two (22) new memberships were obtained by Mr. Harvard since the last meeting.

4. The regular monthly meeting of the area coordinators and captains was held on Thursday, March 15, 1973. Thirty-one (31) people were present. The agenda was as usual, tightening up of the Gibson Organization and providing services for the community. Several new people attended this meeting.

5. Mr. Harvard has assigned 300 tickets for the Mayor's birthday bill.

President Elton Hill



**NEWARK-First Annual Youth Service Agency Basketball Game Between Staff and Youth Referrals with their Honorary Member, Mayor Gibson with his teammates.**



**U.S.A. Most winningest basketball team playing in a Tournament in Baltimore Md. Sponsored by Pepsi Cola.**



**Kenneth Everette youth referral with his Most Valuable Player Award.**

# Association And Community Briefs

## The Oraton Street Block Association

The Oraton Street Block Club has been very active in getting things done in their neighborhood. We would like to thank the Kenneth A. Gibson Civic Association for the assistance we have received from them, the latest being the removal of a large three-story dead tree from in front of the home of Mr. Allen Rhames. Mr. Rhames is grateful for the removal.

## 20th Street Association

We started our block association in October, 1972 with a total of 13 members. Our first event for the block was a Halloween Party for the children. "The way to a parent is to treat, the children good," is our motto. "We need children and parents to help get organized, and to keep growing."

We are still in the recruiting stage, but each month we meet new neighborhoods, and have lovely meetings and express fellowship.

Our plans for the summer are to have a cleanup day, picnic day, outings for the children, visitation to the sick and shutins.

In closing our report, we would like to extend a welcome to our neighbors of 20th Street to come and help us keep and preserve our homes and neighborhoods.

## The South 19th Street Block Association

The South 19th Street Block Association is a community organization formed two years ago. Our main concern is the continued improvement of our community.

While lacking the full participation of all the residents on the block, a small group of interested participants and I are still trying to fulfill the dire needs of the community in general improvements on our block.

Our purpose as a group is to clean up the community, seek jobs for our youths and bring the residents actively together through social functions and monthly meetings.

Our project started by a member and myself is the 4-H Club. Although this is a youth oriented club, parent participation is highly encouraged. The meetings and social functions of the block association are held in the basement of 501 South 19th Street as a courtesy of one of our club participants, Mr. Edwards.

Although in great need of renovation, we as club members are trying to repair it, as best we can. As president of the association I have appealed to the various public agencies for assistance to help with the much needed repairs of our meeting place.

As the year progresses, we anticipate more activities. While the "Arts and Crafts" will be geared toward the 4-H club.

Mrs. Lonis Dingus, President  
Mrs. Ann Miller, Secretary  
Mrs. Victoria Battle, 4-H Leader

## Fairmount Avenue Block Club Between Springfield Avenue and 16th Avenue

Lieutenant Katz, Crime Prevention of West Ward Police Department and Mr. Ron Tuff, City Hall, have been guest speakers. Fairmount Avenue did not have any trash receptacles on their block within two days after notifying urban agents, trash receptacles were on the block. There was a problem of abandoned cars. Residents had no where to park. Through the Block Associations and Urban Agents, this problem has decreased.

Littleton Avenue and South 16th Street between 15th Avenue and South Orange Avenue. Mrs. Ward, President is very active in the Block Association. Meetings are held every two weeks. 25 members or more are usually present. Many of the problems have been solved. For example, getting debris removed from vacant lots, abandoned buildings have been torn down. They are in the process of having a cocktail sip.

On March 2, 1973, The Littleton Avenue and South 6th Street Block Club have Urban Agents, Gloria Raines, Irene Smith, Mildred Richardson an appreciation.

On March 23, District #4 Assembly Meeting was held at 300 South Orange Avenue. Guest speaker, Mr. Julius Foster from Western Electric.

## Newark's Pequannock Watershed

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson is determined to fully utilize the 35,000 acres of Watershed land located approximately 27 miles N. E. of Newark. The Mayor has directed Nathaniel Washington, Director of Recreation & Parks to pursue various recreational usage in specified areas of the Pequannock Watershed.

In an impromptu interview, Director Washington proposed devising immediate goals in the following areas: 1. Fishing, boating, horseback riding, hiking, mountain climbing, bird watching, etc. 2. Camping for youth or resident camping and family camping. Also to provide, on loan, camping gear such as tents, lanterns, etc., to campers. 3. Outdoor education including an area for field trips for schools, the study of Biological Forestry and Survival. 4. School camping and field trips will be primarily for the Newark School System. Plans include developing year found camp facilities with a large Convention Center to be used by Newark residents, or rented out to other towns; 5. Conservation of Plant Life and Wild Life, along with Ecology and Environmental Protection.

Of course, the primary function of the Pequannock Watershed is to provide good drinking water.

Because of added participation by residents from Newark and surrounding areas, the Director stated he felt we should develop a ranger unit oriented by the National Park Service and the Newark Fire Department.

The function of the ranger unit would be Environmental Protection (protection of the land), Fire Prevention, Protection of youth near water areas, rescue work, and general public relations activities with surrounding towns.

The City of Newark needs activities of this kind to further educate its youth, and also to get them off the ghetto streets into a natural environmental habitat.

## IN HIS HONOR

*The Kenneth A. Gibson Civic Association*

sponsors

## *The Mayor's Third Annual Birthday Celebration*

*Sunday, May 13, 1973 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.*

*at the Terrace Room*

*1020 Broad Street, Newark, N.J.*

*Hot and Cold Hors D'oeuvres*

*Cocktails*

*Donation \$5.00*



## They Said It Couldn't Be Done

Mayor

Kenneth A. Gibson's  
Overview Statement  
on the 1973 Budget



When administering a city the size of Newark, the preparation and submission of a budget is extremely important to the life blood of the City. The budget document makes clear the city's financial position and also the administration's priorities for improving services to Newark's citizens. Our goal has always been to improve both the quality and amount of city services, smuggling at the same time to reduce an excessively high property tax rate. The 1973 budget takes an unprecedented giant step forward in accomplishing this objective. The citizens of Newark will benefit by a 26% reduction in the real estate tax - \$2.35 per \$100 assessed valuation. Moreover, services will improve in the following areas: Increased Manpower in the Police Department, Establishment of an Engineering Department, Strengthened efforts in Sanitation and later control, Continuing modernization of City Departments.

How was Newark able to increase services while decreasing the property tax increases? This is a natural question. The answer is significant not because it tells us only about 1973, but also as in forecasting what Newark's financial picture will look like in the years ahead.

The reduction in the 1973 property tax comes as the result of an extraordinary series of

fruitful interactions with the City Council, the Newark Board of Education and the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Budgeting in Newark is not a hit or miss proposition, it is a year-round job. The City's efforts to bring under control the 1973 budget began nearly a year ago today. On April 10, 1972, the property tax rate for the City of Newark was struck at \$9.63. On May 1, I instructed my Department Directors and Agency Heads to prepare reports for my mid-year to the citizens of Newark outlining the goals and objectives which would be implemented through the 1972 budget. On July 1, these goals and objectives were cited in my Annual Report.

In August of last year, I announced that based on the final estimate prepared by the City's Budget Officer, Newark was confronted with the prospect of a \$65 million budget gap which, if allowed to go uncorrected, would result in a property tax rate of more than \$12.00 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. The sheer fact of not knowing how much is coming from where pays havoc with good management planning. Listed here are the projected alarming revenue losses we were forced to anticipate and minimize.

Tax Base Shrinkage (Abandoned

Property) \$2.0 millions, Special Taxes (Not Authorized) \$12.3 millions, Urban Aid (Decreased by State) \$7.4 millions, Marland Reimbursement (Reimursed) \$8.25 millions, TOTAL \$31.15 millions.

Along with an expected increase in expenditures of \$34.0 millions without crying wolf, we were forced to expect the worse, hope for the best and light to overcome a \$65 million deficit.

This required an extraordinary amount of my administration's time and energies over the last seven months. I made numerous trips to Trenton to lobby for revenue measures that benefited the City while holding continuous consultations with members of the Essex County Legislative Delegation, the leadership of the State Legislature, the Governor and his representatives and legislators around the state. In addition, I continued my participation in the successful efforts of the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Legislative Action Committee to seek Congressional approval of General Revenue Sharing. Yet, our citizens should not be mislead when they hear about millions of dollars coming to Newark in General Revenue Sharing. It just helps keep the city afloat. We received more than twice the amount for this budget-year than we can expect under the formula set

year.

I instructed the members of my Administration to set about the arduous task of preparing the actual budget document for 1973. From the outset, it was necessary to establish very clear and tough guidelines for 1973 expenditures. The general guideline I initiated was that 1973 departmental expenditures were not to exceed 1972 salary and wage negotiations. Requests for new City programs were permitted, but they had to run a gauntlet of very careful and stringent review. If they did not meet the obvious needs of the people, they had no place in our budget. The final step in this review occurred at my Budget Workshop meetings of December 11 and 12. This principle of holding to the 1972 budget line reflected the serious situation the City faced. The 1972 budget had been based on the need for financial austerity, penny-pinching down to the decimal point. \$25 million had been cut from the requests of departments and agencies in 1972. In all, the City intensified its efforts to economize without compromising service programs.

The City made up the ground from its initial projected \$12.00 property tax rate to a 3 per cent decrease in the actual rate of \$9.38.

The expenditure of the 1973 budget is

quite clear. While we have managed to maximize our limited resources and increased services, Newark has not yet solved its budgetary problems. Much remains to be done while the tax rate continues to be excessive and unstable. Heavy reliance of the City on General Revenue Sharing, Special Taxes and State Urban Aid in the 1973 budget unquestionably forecasts that Newark will be confronted by an enormous budget gap in 1974. Again, we are not crying wolf, and if the poor are eaten alive, the Nation will realize this. Finally, the uncertainty of Special Revenue Sharing along with the retrenchment of the Nation Administration in the area of human needs will further compound the difficulties to be overcome in the 1974 budget. I have directed the Budget Officer to complete a first estimate of 1974 revenues and expenditures by May 1st, in order to have an early indication of the 1974 budget situation. We have found that getting ahead of budget problems is the name of the fiscal game.

There are some bright spots, however. The ruling of the New Jersey Supreme Court to uphold the "Boiler Decision" which requires the State of New Jersey to pay for education in some other way than

increasing taxes on property, will bring a sigh of relief to homeowners. What remains to be seen is whether the State Legislature and the Governor will act with "all reasonable speed" and the political courage to provide much needed financial help to Newark in 1974.

In addition, the Administration, in cooperation with the Vendor Plus Task Force on Urban Problems, has introduced a program of Tax Base Stabilization to the Legislature (Assembly Bill 2389) which would have the effect of stabilizing the loss of taxable properties which Newark and other communities have experienced over the past few years. Here again, the State Legislature will be called upon to act boldly, not only in the interests of New Jersey's urban centers, but in the interest of the survival of this State and our Nation.

In all, the experiences of the 1973 budget point out both the uncertainties that lie ahead as well as the potential for meaningful improvement. Before us lies the challenge of continuing to improve services in the City while correcting the unfairness and inequities of property tax financing. This a challenge which I personally accept, fully understanding the magnitude, and which will continue to be a central goal.

## CERTIFIED AREA PROGRAM SHOWS EFFECTIVENESS

For the past eight months the Certified Area Program, which was established under Model Cities in an effort to help homeowners in a certain area of the West Ward, has been diligently pursuing a loan of twenty-five thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$25,450.00) for Mr. & Mrs. Willie Moss owners of the property located at 45 South 7th Street. The loan was approved by HUD on March 5, 1973. The loan was accompanied by a grant of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) which is not repayable.

As evidenced by the sum of money mentioned herein, the property will undergo major rehabilitation including such renovation as; a new front porch, converting of heating system from coal to oil, complete rehabilitation of all plumbing and electrical work throughout the house and other such items as needed.

The area which has been mentioned in the first preceding paragraph is bounded on the north by Central Avenue, east by Littleton Avenue, south by South Orange Avenue and west by South 12th Street. Of the approximate 900 structures in the area

there have been about 250 inspected by the city and violation notices returned to the Certified Area Program since the program inception in August 1972.

Although the program is primarily concerned with owner occupied structures not exceeding four dwelling units we are also charged with notifying absentee landlords of their violation and their responsibility to abate same.

As a means of combating this situation we had approximately 80 absentee landlords taken to court since the program's inception.

Of the approximate 178 owner occupied dwelling units inspected, more than 30 have already made application for assistance through our program. The bulk of these live in the area of South 12th and South 11th Street. We are presently processing 20 of these cases through our finance department, which represents over forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) in loans and fifteen-thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) in grants.

We are anxious to have more homeowners apply to our program and would like to make it very plain that

application is made on a voluntary basis only and where analysis of income and expenses indicate that a homeowner cannot sustain a loan we do not make any attempts for a homeowner to do so.

Anyone requiring information about the program should contact Mr. Paul D. Collins, Program Coordinator or Mr. Ronald Woodford, Financial Analyst, at 610 South 11th Street, Newark, New Jersey 07103 (Phone Number) 243-0100 or 243-0103.

### Newark's Madison Square Garden

For those who are not aware, Newark has it's own - Madison Square Garden, located in the East Ward, Ironbound Recreation Center.

We have various successful programs such as, arts and crafts, volleyball, baseball, basketball, hockey, chess, soccer, also movies every Sunday. For the first time ever, the City of Newark will run a disco, featuring shows for young and old. Our slogan is "If it doesn't happen in Newark, We make it happen."

The center is open daily.

*Fly United with...*



**THE KENNETH A. GIBSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

*to Aloha-Land*

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HAWAII**

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- 7 NIGHTS -

- 8 DAYS -

- 7 NIGHTS -

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**TAXES:** All applicable Federal and State taxes are included.

**TIPPING:** Gratuities are included for meals and beverages. Tips to Breakfast and Dinner Waiters NOT INCLUDED.

**EXCLUSIONS:** Meals except as specifically mentioned. Airport tax, beverage, alcohol, baggage charge, laundry, insurance, and items of purely a personal nature.

**\$6.00 DEPOSIT WITH RESERVATION**

Deposit must be no later than March 31st, 1973.

Full payment must be no later than June 15th, 1973.

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**SINGLE ROOMS:** Cost for single room occupancy is \$10.00 a day extra.

**THIRD PERSON IN THE ROOM:** If three persons desire to share a room the reduction is \$10.00 per person from total tour price.

**CHILDREN:** Rate for children under 12 years of age sharing room with two adults - \$210.00 per child.

**CANCELLATION AGREEMENT:** If this trip is cancelled by Tour Operator at any time all monies will be refunded. If reservations are cancelled prior to 45 days before departure, all of the monies will be refunded. For cancellations within 30 days of departure, only 80 percent of the tour cost will be refunded. A \$10.00 per person non-refundable registration fee is included in the tour price.

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:**

Samuel Upshaw, 375-6333

Re Thomas, 323-4710

Danny Williams, 374-0504

# A Bird's Eye View Of Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson Japan Trip

One day was spent at a meeting with Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Board. Tokyo, a city of more than 11 million people, has a very low crime rate. In fact, it is known as the safest city in the world. I think that the low crime rate is due to the relations among the Japanese people, the laws of the country, and the methods used to enforce those laws by units such as Tokyo's Metropolitan Police. Japan has strict gun control laws and enforcement of those laws. Therefore, the murder rates are very low compared to U.S. cities. Tokyo has had no heroin addicts since 1966! Compared to Newark, where about 50% of our crime is related to hard drugs, we can understand how effective control of drugs can produce a dramatic reduction in crime.

Tokyo has practically no unemployment problems. Japanese employees consider themselves as joining a company for life when they begin working for the company. Japanese companies have practically no layoffs. Everybody works all the time.

## !!NOTICE!!

Christ Reformed Church, started Saturday Bible School. School will begin every Saturday at 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. All children 4 years old through high school age, are invited to attend. Christ Reformed Church is located on Broadway, at the corner of Delavan Ave, Newark, N.J.

### KENNETH A GIBSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION WARD APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_



Generally there are two bonuses paid each year. Each bonus is about equal to three months pay. The companies provide low cost housing to the employees and free or low cost medical care to the employee and his family. The work week is five and one-half days per week. Labor unions are organized for workers within the individual companies and they do not usually disrupt production for long periods when they demonstrate. Individual pay increases and promotions are based more on seniority than production.

Housing supply in Tokyo and other cities is extremely limited. In Tokyo, it is normal for workers to commute an hour in each direction to their jobs.

I recommended to the Japanese officials that they consider strict controls on land use and development in order to protect and preserve the very limited available land for future generations of Japanese people.

In Tokyo, they only collect about 10% of the operating budget from property taxes as compared to Newark's 56% dependence on property tax. The remainder of Tokyo's tax money comes from the Japanese central government, business corporation taxes, automobile taxes, amusement taxes, and business and personal habitation taxes.



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## Gibson Trades Blows For Scholarships

On April 6, 1973, the citizen's of Newark witnessed a spectacular event.

The West Kinney Jr. High School Scholarship Fund, founded by the late Timothy Still, presents an annual boxing show, featuring the best amateur boxers in the area. The feature bout of the evening pitted our own Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson against George Branch, President of the fund and a former professional boxer.

The referee was Alonzo Johnson a former top contender for light heavyweight and heavyweight boxing crowns, who now trains Newark's own Reggie Jones, (who also displayed his remarkable skill) the Olympic Contender.

The three round bout proved to the audience that the mayor is as brawny as he is brainy.

In several electrifying moments of the bout, it was difficult to visualize him as the mayor, because of his aggressiveness as a boxer. The proceeds received from the bout will go toward scholarships for graduates of Central, West Side, and Malcolm X Shabazz High Schools, providing they were former West Kinnites.

The Mayor's actions goes further than the bout itself, it was also a plea for higher education for our youth of today.

— RIGHT-ON MAYOR — we're all behind you.

